

State of Texas



First Responder Advisory Council

Overview

ORIGIN

The First Responder Advisory Council was authorized and established by the 78th legislature (HB 9) in 2003.

PURPOSE

The Council is described in Chapter 421, Subchapter B-1 of the Government Code, and was created to carry out the provisions of Sections 421.041 of the Code:

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 4. EXECUTIVE BRANCH

SUBTITLE B. LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

CHAPTER 421. HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 421.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

- (1) "Agency" means any governmental entity.
- (2) "Critical infrastructure" includes all public or private assets, systems, and functions vital to the security, governance, public health and safety, economy, or morale of the state or the nation.
- (3) "Homeland security activity" means any activity related to the prevention or discovery of, response to, or recovery from a terrorist attack, natural or man-made disaster, hostile military or paramilitary action, or extraordinary law enforcement emergency.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1312, Sec. 1, eff. June 21, 2003.

Sec. 421.002. HOMELAND SECURITY STRATEGY. (a) The governor shall direct homeland security in this state and shall develop a statewide homeland security strategy that improves the state's ability to:

- (1) detect and deter threats to homeland security;
- (2) respond to homeland security emergencies; and

(3) recover from homeland security emergencies.

(b) The governor's homeland security strategy shall coordinate homeland security activities among and between local, state, and federal agencies and the private sector and must include specific plans for:

(1) intelligence gathering and analysis;

(2) information sharing;

(3) reducing the state's vulnerability to homeland security emergencies;

(4) protecting critical infrastructure;

(5) protecting the state's international border, ports, and airports;

(6) detecting, deterring, and defending against terrorism, including cyber-terrorism and biological, chemical, and nuclear terrorism;

(7) positioning equipment, technology, and personnel to improve the state's ability to respond to a homeland security emergency;

(8) directing the Texas Infrastructure Protection Communications Center and giving the center certain forms of authority to implement the governor's homeland security strategy; and

(9) using technological resources to:

(A) facilitate the interoperability of government technological resources, including data, networks, and applications;

(B) coordinate the warning and alert systems of state and local agencies;

(C) incorporate multidisciplinary approaches to homeland security; and

(D) improve the security of governmental and private sector information technology and information resources.

(c) The governor's homeland security strategy must complement and operate in coordination with the federal homeland security strategy.

Added by Acts 2003, 78th Leg., ch. 1312, Sec. 1, eff. June 21, 2003.

SUBCHAPTER B-1. PERMANENT SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Sec. 421.041. FIRST RESPONDER ADVISORY COUNCIL. (a) The First Responder Advisory Council is a permanent special advisory committee created to advise the governor or the governor's designee on homeland security issues relevant to first responders, radio interoperability, the integration of statewide exercises for hazards, and the related use of available funding.

(b) The council is composed of:

(1) one representative for each of the following sectors of the state, appointed by the governor or the governor's designee:

- (A) law enforcement;
 - (B) firefighters;
 - (C) private first responders; and
 - (D) emergency medical services; and
- (2) other members, as determined by the governor or the governor's designee.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. [1337](#), Sec. 11, eff. June 18, 2005.

Sec. 421.043. ELIGIBILITY. (a) To be eligible for appointment as a member of a permanent special advisory committee created under this subchapter, a person must demonstrate experience in the sector that the person is under consideration to represent and be directly involved in related policies, programs, or funding activities that are relevant to homeland security or infrastructure protection.

(b) Each member of a permanent special advisory committee created under this subchapter serves at the will of the governor.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. [1337](#), Sec. 11, eff. June 18, 2005.

Sec. 421.044. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES PROHIBITED. A person who is a member of a permanent special advisory committee created under this subchapter is not entitled to receive compensation from this state for service on the committee or travel expenses incurred by the person while conducting the business of the committee.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. [1337](#), Sec. 11, eff. June 18, 2005.

Sec. 421.045. DUTIES. Each permanent special advisory committee created under this subchapter shall advise the governor on:

- (1) the development and coordination of a statewide critical infrastructure protection strategy;
- (2) the implementation of the governor's homeland security strategy by state and local agencies and provide specific suggestions for helping those agencies implement the strategy;
- (3) specific priorities related to the governor's homeland security strategy that the committee determines to be of significant importance to the statewide security of critical infrastructure; and
- (4) other matters related to the planning, development, coordination, and implementation of initiatives to promote the governor's homeland security strategy.

Added by Acts 2005, 79th Leg., Ch. [1337](#), Sec. 11, eff. June 18, 2005.